MEC
McLean Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

JUNE 2026

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Official notice of 81st annual meeting

McLean Electric Cooperative will hold its annual membership meeting Tuesday, June 16, at its headquarters located at 4031 Highway 37 Bypass NW in Garrison. Registration and the meal will be held from 5-6:30 p.m. followed by the business meeting at 6:30 p.m. to take action on the following matters.

1. Election of two directors for the cooperative
2. All other business which may come before the meeting or any adjournments thereof

Pursuant to the bylaws, the following member has filed a petition for directorship of the cooperative:

- District 7 – Larry Gessele (I) of Mercer
- District 2 – No candidates

May 28, 2026
Rodney Stockdill, *secretary* ■

PROGRAM

5 p.m.
Registration and meal

6:30 p.m.
Business meeting
Call to order
Determination of quorum
Invocation
Welcome
Reading of notice and previous minutes
President's report
General manager's report
Financial report
Operation Round Up report
Employee service awards
Presentation of scholarships
Election of directors
Old business
New business
Adjournment

MESSAGE TO OUR MEMBERS

BY PRESIDENT JAMES ODERMANN AND GENERAL MANAGER/CEO MARK DOYLE

James Odermann
Board President

Mark Doyle
General Manager/CEO

In 2025, McLean Electric Cooperative (MEC) reached an 80-year milestone. As a not-for-profit cooperative, MEC was created to bring electricity to rural areas that investor-owned utilities (IOUs) were not interested in serving. Guided by that mission, members built a democratic cooperative that provides safe, reliable and affordable electric service to our members.

We will continue to adapt and evolve with the industry. Over the past 80 years, MEC has grown from electrifying local farmsteads to serving a diverse membership and considering new large-load opportunities across oil, agricultural, recerational and residential use.

This growth benefits our members. In general, the more we grow, the more we can spread fixed costs, which helps reduce the cost to serve each member. MEC delivers an essential service, and higher overall sales typically lower the average cost per unit of electricity.

While these benefits may not always be immediately visible on your bill, all industries continue to feel the effects of inflation. Rising costs remain a major driver of rate pressure and are expected to persist. In response, MEC is working diligently to ensure our rates are fair and equitable for all members.

In 2025, the board of directors approved a rate design change effective Jan. 1. This is the first of several adjustments that may be proposed as we work toward our long-term rate design goals.

We are also continuing to modernize our system. Our advanced metering system helps ensure accurate billing and supports load profiling. After several years of work, we completed all installations in 2025.

In addition, we are finalizing the installation of a supervisory control and data acquisition system to further improve load profiling and strengthen system monitoring and control. This project is scheduled for completion in 2026.

We look forward to visiting with you at the annual meeting. ■

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES – JUNE 17, 2025

The 80th annual meeting of the members of McLean Electric Cooperative Inc. (MEC) was held at the company's headquarters in Garrison on June 17, 2025. The meeting was called by order by President Larry Gessele at 6:30 p.m.

Dinner was prepared and served by board of directors and staff to the members. Secretary Rod Stockdill informed President Gessele that a quorum was present and President Gessele informed the attendees the cooperative was open for business.

President Gessele introduced Vice President Darcy Klain, who gave the opening invocation.

President Gessele recognized present and past military service personnel and led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance, which was followed by the playing of the national anthem.

President Gessele reported the notice of the 80th annual meeting and the minutes of the 79th annual meeting were ready to be read for approval. It was moved that a reading of the notice and minutes be waived and they be approved as presented. The motion was seconded and carried.

President Gessele recognized the dignitaries and guests in attendance and thanked them for attending.

President Gessele introduced the board of directors and the Member Advisory Committee to the attendees.

President Gessele provided a state of the cooperative report, as follows:

- The past 80 years has brought many changes to the area, such as the building of the Garrison Dam and the opening of Coal Creek Power Station and the Falkirk Mine.
- Short-term costs have increased and will continue to increase, meaning rates will have to increase along with the other cooperatives in the area.
- MEC will continue to strive.

President Gessele introduced General Manager/CEO Mark Doyle to provide his address to the attendees. Manager Doyle discussed the following:

- The cooperative in 2024 experienced incr

growth with rural subdivisions, Rainbow Energy, White Shield expansion and in agriculture.
  - The cooperative built 17 miles of new lines in 2024.
  - The cooperative installed a new metering system.
  - Reported that supply chain was still an issue to install multiple channel communications.
- The cooperative received a 10-year safety award for experiencing zero lost-time days.
- He acknowledged the cooperative's employees for their accomplishment.
- The cooperative is financially stable, experiencing a 25% increase in kilowatt-hour (kWh) sales compared to 2023. Costs are driving up rates. The cooperative is changing its rate structure and design, which will be implemented in 2025.

Manager Doyle then introduced Business Manager Wendy Kinn to provide the financial report for the cooperative. She reported plant growth for 2024 was 3.96% and the equity ratio was 35.8% with total assets of $61,329,921. The kWh usage was 187,958,790 with revenue of $20,182,103. 2024 revenue increased $4.1 million to $20,182,103. 2024 net margin was $1,665,555, which included a $783,869 capital credit allocation from Central Power Electric Cooperative. Active services grew by 22 in 2024. The cooperative had 1,823 miles of total transmission lines, 1,246 miles overhead and 577 miles underground.

President Gessele introduced Troy Presser, MEC director as well as the cooperative's director to Central Power and the Central Power director to Basin Electric Cooperative, who provided a generation and transmission report.

During his report, Director Presser stated Central Power is having the same issues as MEC regarding supply chains and costs.

- He gave a snapshot of the happenings of Basin Electric during the past year. Basin Electric's goal is to balance supply with demand and make members lives better.
- Growth is expected to rise significantly in the next 10 years and will be three times the load of Fargo.
- Data centers, AI and crypto will pay for any new generation, not the patrons.

President Gessele introduced Mark Doyle to provide the Operation Round Up report. Manager Doyle introduced the Operation Round Up trust board of directors. In 2024, Operation Round Up received income of $14,460.19 and awarded grants of $17,000 to Ryder Community Food Pantry, Turtle Lake Trinity Lutheran Church Senior Citizens Exercise Program, Baby Elliana Behle's medical expenses, Turtle Lake Ambulance, North Dakota 4-H Foundation, Community Action Backpack Kids Program, BIO Girls Empowerment and Preventative Mental Health Program and the Turtle Lake Chamber of Progress Bike Fest. He told the attendees a maximum of $11.88 can be given in any year, with average distributions through Operation Round Up of about $6 annually with each month's bills rounded up to the nearest dollar.

President Gessele announced the terms for Districts 1, 3 and 5 were up for election. The incumbent directors for these districts were James Odermann of District 1 who ran unopposed, Troy Presser of District 4 who ran unopposed, and Rod Stockdill of District 3 who was opposed by Duane Hummel. Each gave a short nomination speech. Ballots were cast and counted by the appointed election commissioners.

General Manager/CEO Doyle announced the following employee service awards: Jesse Carter, lineworker, 10 years, and Mark Doyle, general manager/CEO, five years.

General Manager/CEO Doyle presented the following scholarships:

- Basin Electric scholarships of $500 each to Tavi Hirchert, Wilton, the daughter of Earl and Mary Hirchert, and Jack Retterath, Washburn, the son of Justin and Rachel Retterath.

MEC scholarship to Lucille Taylor, Garrison, the daughter of Debra Taylor.

The 2025 Youth Tour winner is Analiese Kallberg of Garrison, the daughter of John and Nicole Kallberg.

President Gessele asked for any old business. There was none.

President Gessele asked for any new business. There was none.

President Gessele announced the results of the director elections. Odermann, Presser and Stockdill were reelected.

President Gessele asked for a motion to adjourn. Such motion was made and seconded and voted to adjourn.

President Gessele announced the 80th annual meeting grand prize of two $500 prizes to be given to attendees who were present. The 2025 winners were Rod Stockdill, Garrison, and Karen Hanson, Turtle Lake. Other door prizes were presented as well. ■

MEET THE CANDIDATE

GESSELE

LARRY GESSELE
INCUMBENT CANDIDATE DISTRICT 7

Larry Gessele is a retired farmer and rancher from southeastern McLean County. He has represented District 7 on the McLean Electric Cooperative (MEC) board for 12 years, including nine years as president.

Gessele is seeking reelection to the MEC board to continue providing affordable, safe and reliable electricity for its members.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural economics and animal science from North Dakota State University. Gessele has served on several local boards, including eight years on the Turtle Lake–Mercer School District board of education, 15 years on the Farm Credit Services board, including three years as chairperson, and nine years on the Equity Elevator Board of Turtle Lake as secretary-treasurer. He has also held leadership roles at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Mercer and continues to serve on the Turtle Lake–Mercer ambulance squad. Gessele previously served for 50 years with the Mercer Rural Volunteer Fire Department before retiring.

Larry and his wife, Kathy, have been married for 46 years and have three children and nine grandchildren. He enjoys time with his family, traveling, golfing and studying history, particularly the World War II era.

No candidates filed in District 2.

Discounts offered for Medora vacation

McLean Electric Cooperative is able to offer its members a discount by being a Touchstone Energy® member. Simply call 1-800-MEDORA-1 and give the discount code of "TOUCH2026" for a 15% discount on all of the following during any night of the season.

- Medora Musical
- Pitchfork steak fondue
- Bully Pulpit Golf Course
- Gospel Bruch tickets
- Old Town Hall Theater shows

LODGING AT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:
- Elkhorn Quarters
- Badlands Motel
- Rough Riders Hotel
- Hotel 1883

MEC McLean Electric Cooperative, Inc.
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The code is good for reservations over the phone, online or in person. A green fees discount will be applied at check-in for a tee time at the golf course.

OPERATION ROUND UP

Operation Round Up is a voluntary program in which McLean Electric Cooperative (MEC) consumers round up their monthly electric bills to the nearest dollar. The money goes into a trust fund, with grants awarded by a seven-member volunteer board.

Operation Round Up funds support qualifying individuals, families or organizations in need of financial assistance. It assists with personal or family emergencies and community-based education, health, charitable, scientific or safety programs or projects. Recipients must live within MEC's service area, but don't have to be MEC members.

A total of $14,500 was awarded in 2025. Nine organizations received grants when MEC consumers "rounded up" through the program in 2025.

- ND Crisis Chaplains
- Turtle Lake-Mercer Family Career and Community Leaders of America
- Community Action Backpack Kids Program
- BIO Girls - Empowerment and Preventive Mental Health Program for Washburn and Garrison
- Turtle Lake Wildlife Club
- Turtle Lake Chamber of Progress (Bike Fest and Christmas Baskets)

The groundwork to establish Operation Round Up began in 2012. Since awarding its first grants in 2013, MEC members contributed $187,290.65 to the program. Grants totaling $165,382.00 have been granted to 105 recipients since the program's inception.

The most a MEC account could contribute annually is $11.88. For most MEC consumers, contributions average about $6 annually when each month's bill is rounded up to the nearest dollar.

Operation Round Up board of directors shall be elected and voted on by MEC's seven-member board of directors. Operation Round Up directors are President Mark Jennings, Washburn; Vice President Debbie Boe, Turtle Lake; Secretary- Treasurer Carla Landenberger, Underwood; Steven Haakenson, Parshall; Lena Volochenko, Butte; Darci Behles, Garrison; Shelly Schumacher, Garrison.

The Operation Round Up board focuses on the organization's goals and mission in its ranking process as it reviews applications. Serving on the Operation Round Up board of directors is a voluntary, non-paying position.

MEC employees or board of directors are not involved with the Operation Round Up board or its decision-making. The cooperative's role is advisory, and it helps administer the program and ensuring bylaws and IRS 501(c)(3) regulations are followed.

Recipients can apply more than one time and must be an Internal Revenue Service 501(c)(3) federal tax-exempt organization. Individuals with medical or emergency financial needs can receive grants through nonprofit organizations' grant requests. More information is available on MEC's website, mcleanelectric.com, under "community/ Operation Round Up" or call the MEC office and visit with Sonja Moe at 701-463-6700 or toll-free 800-263- 4922.

2025 Operation Round Up financial report

Beginning balance (Jan. 1, 2025)	$18,702.25
INCOME	
Operation Round Up contributions YTD	$13,503.64
Total income YTD	**$13,503.64**
EXPENSES	
Grants awarded in 2025	$14,500.00
Administrative expenses	$10
Total expenses	**$14,510.00**
Ending balance (Dec. 31, 2025)	$17,695.89

Balance sheet as of Dec. 31, 2025

ASSETS

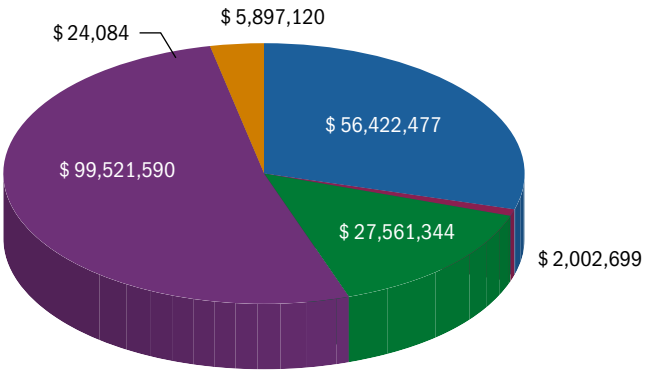
	2025	2024
ELECTRIC PLANT		
In Service	53,715,812	51,372,579
Electric Plant Under Construction	4,389,712	4,735,411
Total Electric Plant	58,105,524	56,107,990
Less Accumulated Depreciation	15,237,171	14,334,299
Net Electric Plant	42,868,353	41,773,691
OTHER ASSETS AND INVESTMENTS		
Investments in Associated Companies	11,200,642	10,473,214
Other Investments	315,935	340,713
Total Other Assets and Investments	11,516,577	10,813,927
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	806,157	983,159
Accounts Receivable - Electric Bills	3,099,216	3,196,825
Current Portion Other Investments - Loans Rec.	33,000	33,000
Materials and Supplies	2,647,022	3,542,845
Other Current and Accrued Assets	720,299	614,502
Total Current Assets	7,305,694	8,370,331
DEFERRED DEBITS	288,027	371,972
TOTAL ASSETS	**61,978,651**	**61,329,921**

LIABILITIES

	2025	2024
EQUITIES		
Patronage Capital - Members	22,010,655	20,832,568
Other Margins and Equities	1,159,865	1,133,892
Total Equities	23,170,520	21,966,460
LONG-TERM DEBT		
Total Long-Term Debt	36,129,093	35,688,537
Total Lease Obligations	390,585	376,264
Less Current Maturities	1,665,460	1,644,923
Total Long-Term Debt (Net)	34,854,218	34,419,878
OTHER NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accumulated Provision for Pension & Benefits	284,375	323,243
Total Non-Current Liabilities	284,375	323,243
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Current Maturities - Long-Term Debt	1,567,035	1,540,615
Current Maturities - Lease Obligations	98,425	104,308
Line of Credit	-	900,000
Accounts Payable - Power Supplier	1,225,972	1,137,538
Accounts Payable - General	27,297	27,397
Member Deposits	170,115	170,080
Other Current and Accrued Liabilities	481,432	506,731
Total Current Liabilities	3,570,276	4,386,669
DEFERRED CREDITS		
Advanced Payment for Electricity - Members	99,262	233,671
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**61,978,651**	**61,329,921**

Statement of operations as of Dec. 31, 2025

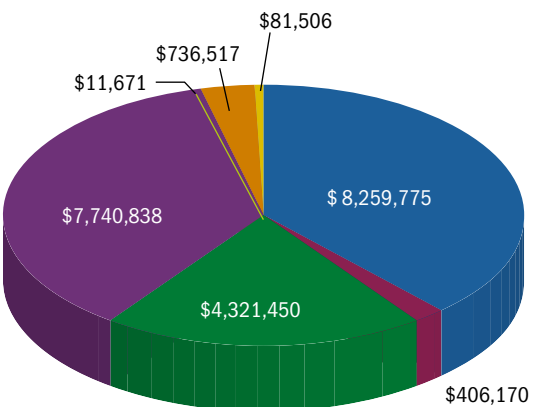
	2025	2024
OPERATING REVENUES		
Electric Revenue	21,476,420	20,075,678
Other	108,173	106,425
Total Operating Revenue	21,584,593	20,182,103
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Cost of Power	13,566,428	12,491,351
Operations & Maintenance	2,390,132	2,161,607
Member Accounts	526,694	475,860
Member Service	67,205	91,247
Sales Expense	105,418	90,887
Administrative & General	1,595,767	1,448,513
Depreciation	1,574,575	1,561,961
Tax	143,927	142,994
Other	17,628	15,434
Total Operating Expenses	19,987,774	18,479,854
OPERATING MARGINS	**1,596,819**	**1,702,249**
FIXED CHARGES		
Interest on Long-Term Debt	1,238,473	1,239,102
Total Fixed Charges	1,238,473	1,239,102
MARGIN AFTER FIXED CHARGES	358,346	463,147
G&T AND OTHER CAPITAL CREDIT	1,051,475	1,091,399
NET OPERATING MARGINS	1,409,821	1,554,546
NONOPERATING MARGINS		
Merchandising	(38,546)	(36,953)
Other Income	276,053	121,953
Interest Income	37,730	29,782
Gain (Loss) on Disposal Property	60,667	(3,773)
Total Nonoperating Margins	335,904	111,009
NET MARGIN	**1,745,725**	**1 1,665,555**



KWH Usage

- Residential..... 56,422,477
- Irrigation 2,002,699
- Small Commercial (1000 KVA or Less) 27,561,344
- Large Commercial (Over 1000 KVA) 99,521,590
- Public Street and Highway Lighting..... 24,084
- Other Sales to Public Authority..... 5,897,120

TOTAL..... 191,429,314



Revenue from sales of energy

- Residential..... $8,259,775
- Irrigation $406,170
- Small Commercial (1000 KVA or Less) $4,321,450
- Large Commercial (Over 1000 KVA) $7,740,838
- Public Street and Highway Lighting..... $11,671
- Other Sales to Public Authority..... $736,517
- Wheeling (WAPA)..... $81,506

TOTAL..... $21,557,927

McLean County community calendar:
Events and activities to see and do

McLean County area food pantry June distribution and donation thrift store dates, times and locations:

- **Garrison – Garrison Area Resource Center & Food Pantry:** Noon-2 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. June 25.
- **Makoti, Parshall, Plaza, Roseglen, Ryder, White Shield and others in need – Community Food Pantry:** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. June 27, 181 Ellsworth St., Makoti. Community Thrift Store: 3-6 p.m. Tuesday, 4-7 p.m. Thursday and 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, except holidays, 181 Ellsworth St., Makoti.
- **Max – Our Savior Lord's Food Pantry:** Noon-3 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. June 15, Max City Hall, 215 Main St.
- **Turtle Lake – The Lord's Pantry:** 2-4 p.m. June 11, and 10 a.m.-noon June 27, Trinity Lutheran Church, 515 Kundert St.
- **Turtle Lake – Free Community Clothing Share & Exchange Store:** Noon-6 p.m. every Thursday, 221 Main St.
- **Underwood – Community Cupboard of Underwood food distribution:** 10 a.m.-noon 4-6 p.m. June 11, 208 Lincoln Ave. Like on Facebook (Community Cupboard of Underwood), for distribution dates and thrift store updates.
- **Underwood – Community Cupboard of Underwood Thrift Store:** 1-5 p.m. every Tuesday.
- **Washburn – McLean Family Resource Center:** McLean County residents can contact the center, 701-462-8643, for an appointment to pick up baskets along with more information or assistance through the center's services, 205 Seventh St.
- **Washburn – McLean Family Resource Center Clothing Outlet:** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 205 Seventh St.
- **Wilton – Wilton Food Pantry mini distributions:** 11:30 a.m. until gone every Friday. Full food distribution 4-6 p.m. June 18, Wilton Senior Citizens Center, 42 Dakota Ave.
- **Wilton – The (free) Clothes Closet:** 3-5 p.m. June 18, First Presbyterian Church, 401 Dakota Ave.

Area food pantries often experience high needs for the following items: baked beans, pork and beans, canned fruit, tuna, chicken, vegetables, cereal, oatmeal, granola and breakfast bars, juice, macaroni and cheese, hamburger and tuna helper, pancake mix, syrup, pasta, spaghetti, Alfredo and pasta sauce, peanut butter, jelly, rice side dishes, soups and chili, and household items, such as body wash and soap, dish soap, laundry detergent, shampoo and conditioner, toilet paper, toothpaste and toothbrushes. Contact local food pantries for drop-off locations, information or a list of additional needs in your community.

- **Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Free Monthly Victim Support Group meetings:** 11 a.m.-noon June 4, McLean Family Resource Center, 205 Seventh St., Washburn, 5:30-6:30 p.m. June 10, Northland Health Center, 55 First Ave. E., Turtle Lake.

June events:

- **June 5-7:** Washburn Riverboat Days.
- **June 6:** National Trails Day/American Legion Walk, Fort Stevenson State Park, Garrison. Hike starting at the Visitor Center at 2 p.m., enjoying the trails while honoring American veterans and underscoring veteran suicide awareness.
- **June 12-14:** McLean County Fair, Underwood.
- **June 13:** National Marina Day, with open house beginning at 1 p.m., Fort Stevenson State Park, Garrison. Garrison Marina (west marina).
- **June 6:** Military Appreciation Day, Fort Stevenson State Park, Garrison. Free daily park entrance fee admission for active military personnel.
- **June 16:** McLean Electric Cooperative's 81st annual meeting. Rocky Top Petting Zoo, bucket truck rides, registration, and supper beginning at 5 p.m., with business meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- **June 19-20:** Ryder 120th anniversary celebration.
- **June 20:** Camp of the Cross Ministries Annual Prairie Lake Festival, Douglas Bay on Lake Sakakawea. Quilt auction and lunch. Doors open at 9:30 a.m., lunch at 10:30 a.m. and auction at 11 a.m.
- **June 21:** Old Settlers Hiddenwood Picnic, Hiddenwood Lake.
- **June 21:** Annual Garrison Fire Department Fly-in Breakfast (freewill donation), Garrison airport.
- **June 27:** Midsummer Classic Car Show, Underwood.
- **June 27-28:** Frontier Military Days, noon-4 p.m., Fort Stevenson State Park, Garrison. Living history demonstration featuring skills and crafts from the 1800s and tours of the Fort Stevenson Guardhouse Interpretive Center.
- **June 27:** Stick Horse Rodeo, Fort Stevenson State Park, Garrison, following noon Frontier Military Days cannon-firing.

Nonprofit organizations and communities throughout McLean County can contact Patricia Stockdill at stockdill.patricia@gmail.com or 701-337-5462 to submit community events. ■

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

James Odermann, president
701-743-4415
District 1, Parshall

Darcy Klain, vice president
701-448-2408
District 4, Ruso

Rod Stockdill, secretary-treasurer
701-337-6252
District 3, Garrison

Clarence Behles,
asst. secretary-treasurer
701-337-5362
District 2, Garrison

Troy Presser, director
701-447-2855
District 5, Turtle Lake

Karen Hanson, director
701-448-2636
District 6, Turtle Lake

Larry Gessele, director
701-447-2461
District 7, Mercer

STAFF:

Mark Doyle, General Manager/CEO
Keith Thelen, Operations Manager
Lucas Schaaf, Engineering Manager
Wendy Kinn, Business Manager

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